

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

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SUBJECT: NATO DISARMAMENT EXPERTS MEETING: SEABEDS ARMS CONTROL
TREATY REVIEW

1. SUMMARY: DURING APRIL 21 MEETING NATO DISARMAMENT
EXPERTS DISCUSSED SEABED ARMS CONTROL TREATY REVIEW CONFERENCE.
MOST EXPERTS SHARED VIEW THAT REVCON SHOULD BE RELATIVELY ROUTINE
AND THAT IT IS NEITHER DESIRABLE NOR NECESSARY TO AMEND TREATY
AT THIS TIME. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING DISCUSSION OF SEABED ARMS CONTROL TREATY REVIEW
CONFERENCE, US REP (SLOSS) EXPRESSED VIEW THAT SEABED TREATY HAS
FUNCTIONED EFFECTIVELY, AND THAT THERE IS NO NEED TO EXPAND SCOPE
OR AMEND THE TREATY AT THIS TIME. HE ADDED THAT USG WOULD LIKE TO
ENSURE THAT LAW OF THE SEA ISSUES DO NOT INTRUDE INTO SEABED REVCON,
AND THAT FUTURE REVCONS BE HELD ONLY WHEN A SIGNIFICANT
NUMBER OF PARTIES CONSIDER SUCH A REVIEW NECESSARY, OR IF A
FIXED INTERVAL
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IS SET THAT THERE BE TEN YEARS BUT IN NO CASE LESS
THAN FIVE YEARS BETWEEN REVIEW CONFERENCE.

3. U.K. REP (EDMONDS) SAID THAT IT HAS BECOME CLEAR THAT
POLISH AMBASSADOR (WYZNER) WOULD BE PRESIDENT OF REVIEW
CONFERENCE AND SUGGESTED THAT WESTERN GROUP PUT FORWARD
CANDIDATES FOR ALLOCATED BUREAU SLOTS INCLUDING CHAIRMAN OF
DRAFTING COMMITTEE. HE REPORTED THAT UK HAD NOT IDENTIFIED ANY
SIGNIFICANT TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENTS WHICH RELATE TO SEABED TREATY
REVIEW.

4. NETHERLANDS REP (BRUYNS) STATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT REVCON PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY TO LAUNCH NEW IDEAS AND THAT ARTICLE V REQUIRES THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO FURTHER SEABED ARMS CONTROL MEASURES. HE SAID THAT LAW OF THE SEA ISSUES WERE NOT TOTALLY EXTRANEOUS WITH RESPECT TO SEABED TREATY. HE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT SEABED SHOULD BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES AND ADVOCATED FURTHER STEPS TOWARD EVENTUAL DEMILITARIZATION OF THE SEABED. HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT GON HAD NO INTENTION AT THIS TIME TO PROPOSE TREATY AMENDMENT. TURKISH REP (ULUCEVIK) INQUIRED ABOUT RELEVANT TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CONTEXT OF ARTICLE VII AND ASKED THAT APPROPRIATE INFORMATION BE PRESENTED IN NATO. NORWEGIAN REP NOTED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT ALSO LACKED INFORMATION ON TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENTS INCLUDING PERTINENT DEVELOPMENTS WITH RESPECT TO CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS. HE ALSO WONDERED IF PRESENT MEANS OF VERIFICATION ENSURE AGAINST VIOLATIONS.

5. ITALIAN REP (FERRETTI) NOTED THE POSSIBLE DANGER OF SOME COUNTRIES ATTEMPTING TO REDUCE ZONE OF COVERAGE BY HAVING ZONE START AT 200 MILES RATHER THAN 12 MILES. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT ITALY WOULD LIKE PLACE ON BUREAU. BELGIAN REP (ONKILINX) SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS NOT INTERESTED IN BEING REPRESENTED ON BUREAU. DANISH REP (SCHOEN) SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT DID NOT PLAN TO PROPOSE ANY INITIATIVES, BUT WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SEEN THE TYPES OF WEAPONS PROHIBITED ON SEABED EXPANDED. FRG REP (RUTH) INDICATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD NO INTENTION TO PROPOSE ANY
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AMENDMENTS.

6. US DEL MEMBER QUESTIONED WHETHER LIMITING USE OF SEABED EXCLUSIVELY TO PEACEFUL USES WOULD ENHANCE THE COLLECTIVE SECURITY AND WHETHER SUCH A MOVE WOULD BE A POSITIVE ARMS CONTROL MEASURE. AS AN ANALOGY HE NOTED THAT OUTER SPACE TREATY RECOGNIZES THE USE OF OUTER SPACE FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES BUT DOES NOT PROHIBIT USE OF SATELLITES FOR MILITARY PURPOSES. WITH RESPECT TO PERTINENT TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENTS, HE SAID THAT USG IS REVIEWING PROSPECTS AND HAS IDENTIFIED FEW, IF ANY, SUCH DEVELOPMENTS SO FAR, BUT WOULD BE WILLING TO INFORM NATO PRIOR TO REVIEW CONFERENCE IF ANY ARE IDENTIFIED. WITH REGARD TO POSSIBILITY OF A MOVE TO AMEND TREATY SO THAT ZONE OF COVERAGE STARTS AT 200 MILES RATHER THAN 12 MILES- A SPECULATION INTRODUCED BY ITALIAN DELEGATION-US DEL MEMBER SAID THAT USG WOULD STRONGLY RESIST SUCH A CHANGE. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT OTHER REGIONAL GROUPS, US DEL MEMBER NOTED THAT SEABED TREATY PARTIES ARE NOT CROSS SECTION OF UN BUT INCLUDE DISPROPORTIONATE NUMBER OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WITH EAST-WEST RATHER THAN NORTH-SOUTH AXIS. FROM EXCHANGES WITH THE SOVIET CCD DEL IN GENEVA, IT APPEARS THAT THEY SEE THE SEABED REVCON IN MUCH THE SAME LIGHT AS THE US, DESIRING TO CONFIRM THAT TREATY HAS FUNCTIONED EFFECTIVELY AND TO AVOID AMENDMENTS. US DEL MEMBER REPORTED THAT EASTERN EUROPEAN CANDIDATES FOR BUREAU WERE USSR,

POLAND, GDR, AND BULGARIA. ROMANIA AND YUGOSLAVIA HAD SOUGHT SEATS UNSUCCESSFULLY, AND YUGOSLAVIA HAD OPTED TO JOIN ASIAN GROUP FOR REVCON PURPOSES.

7. UK DEL MEMBER REPORTED THAT UN SECRETARIAT HAS ALMOST COMPLETED PAPER ON SUMMARY OF NEGOTIATIONS AND BACKGROUND WHICH SHOULD BE AVAILABLE WITHIN A FEW WEEKS. WITH RESPECT TO PAPERS ON OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS AND COMPILATION OF TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS, THESE MIGHT BE VERY BRIEF INDEED.PEREZ

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